

Middlesex

JANUARY QUARTER SESSIONS, 1851.

THE
SEVENTEENTH REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE OF VISITORS
OF THE
Additional Pauper Lunatic Asylum,
AND
RESOLUTIONS OF THE COURT.

LONDON:
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1851.

List

OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

ADDITIONAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

Appointed January Quarter Session, 1851.

BENJAMIN ROTCH, ESQ., CHAIRMAN.

JAMES BENTLEY, ESQ.

THOMAS HENRY BLUCK, ESQ.

CHARLES SALISBURY BUTLER, ESQ.

EDWARD HENRY CHAPMAN, ESQ.

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JOSIAH WILSON, ESQ.

Middlesex.

TO HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
FOR THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX IN GENERAL QUARTER
SESSION ASSEMBLED.

*THE SEVENTEENTH REPORT of the COM-
MITTEE of VISITORS of the COUNTY
LUNATIC ASYLUM, at COLNEY
HATCH.*

THE close of your Committee's past year of office has seen a most important and very valuable addition made to the County property, by the Contractor handing over to them the immense Building at Colney Hatch, the original Contract for which was entirely executed on the 31st of October last, and the Asylum Buildings upon that day placed in the hands of the Committee of Visitors; exactly one year, five months, and twenty-three days from the period of laying the foundation stone by His Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Prince Consort; thus exhibiting a specimen of English enterprise, energy, and exertion, which may vie with any yet upon record; and of which the County of Middlesex may well be proud. Your Committee are now industriously and anxiously occupied with those arrangements necessary for what is termed in the language of the Act of Parliament under which it is built, the *completion* of the Asylum, including the taking possession, getting in stores, testing the extensive heating apparatus, drying, airing, and cleansing the immense area now requiring those attentions; and generally preparing the Asylum for the reception of Patients.

The original Contract for the erection of the Asylum having been completed, your Committee have, under the advice of their Architect, given orders to the Contractor for the erection of a portion of the necessary boundary Walls, Farm Buildings, Store Sheds, Gas Works, Entrance Gates, Gate Lodge, and Reservoir, and likewise the dwelling-house for the Chaplain, all under the Schedule of Prices annexed to his Contract for building the Asylum; and these works are now on the eve of completion.

Your Committee impressed from the experience gained at Hanwell, with the great importance of providing an efficient Cooking Apparatus for an Establishment of so great an extent as the Asylum at Colney Hatch, devoted much time and attention to the consideration of this subject, and plans for the necessary Apparatus were submitted to them by Mr. John Steadman, by whom many improvements in machinery of that kind have been introduced. These plans were, by the kind permission of the Committee of Visitors of the Hanwell Asylum, carefully examined by the officers of that Institution, whose experience of the many defects in the Cooking Apparatus of their own Asylum enabled them to suggest various alterations in the plan which have been adopted by your Committee; and they now anticipate that the Apparatus which is in the course of construction by Mr. Steadman, will be the means of saving in the end much fuel, and of facilitating the labours of the kitchen in general; while, by one part of its construction, all escape of steam or vapour into the kitchens will be prevented, an evil which much inconveniences the Officers of the Hanwell Asylum.

A Steam Engine has been put up by Messrs. Easton and Amos for pumping the water from the well, and forcing it up

to the reservoir, the site of which is at an elevation sufficient for its flow thence to all parts of the Asylum. This engine has now been at work for some time, and is spoken of in high terms by the Engineer.

While on the subject of the Water, your Committee are much gratified in being enabled to inform the Court, that the water from the well has been recently analysed by Mr. Noad, the Lecturer on Chemistry at St. George's Hospital, who has stated as the result of his investigation, after a double performance of the analysis, that the amount of saline matter contained in an imperial gallon of 70,000 grains, is by direct estimation 33.3 grains, consisting of

	grains.
Carbonate of Lime.....	6,500
,, of Magnesia	1,320
,, of Soda.....	7,100
Sulphate of Potash	2,590
,, of Soda	5,770
,, of Lime	4,555
Chloride of Magnesium.....	4,260
Silica	670
Soluble Organic Matter.....	470
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	33,235

Mr. Noad, in his letter to the Chairman, accompanying the Analysis, remarks:—" This water seems to be admirably
 " adapted for household purposes. The presence of soda in
 " the form of carbonate renders it an economical water for
 " washing purposes; and the very small amount of organic
 " impurity which it contains, fits it peculiarly for a beverage.
 " It may be used without fear in the Asylum; but it should

“ neither be collected through leaden pipes, nor preserved in
 “ leaden cisterns. In common with all the Artesian well
 “ waters in the London and plastic clay, it is alkaline ; but
 “ unlike several others that I have lately examined, it con-
 “ tains carbonate of lime and magnesia in pretty considerable
 “ quantities, in relation to the total amount of saline matter.
 “ The presence of these earthy carbonates held in solution
 “ by carbonic acid, gives the water a freshness and briskness
 “ which alkaline waters are generally wanting in. I think
 “ you may congratulate the Asylum on having so excellent
 “ a spring.”

Your Committee are also happy to report, that their exertions to secure an easy and cheap transit for the poor friends of the patients, by the Great Northern Railway, to visit the Asylum, has been met in a spirit of kindness and liberality by the Directors, who have it under consideration to stop one Train Down and one Train Up every morning, and one Up and one Down every evening, for the accommodation of the Asylum. They have established a very convenient Passenger Station at Colney Hatch itself, immediately adjoining the premises belonging to the Asylum. A siding for goods traffic has been made up to the entrance of the Store Sheds and Gas Works, from whence your Committee are now constructing a Tram Way into the Depot for Coals and Stores, which they propose hereafter to continue, if requisite, to the Offices and Stores in the centre building ; so that coals and heavy goods of many kinds may be brought at once in the railway waggons to the places appropriated for their deposit, without breaking bulk.

The Railway Directors have uniformly evinced a friendly disposition to accede to the applications for accommodation

made by your Committee, and have, at their instance, obligingly placed the public Passenger Station and Booking Office on the opposite side of the line from the Asylum premises, and have amongst other things agreed to allow not only the Members of your Committee and the Officers of the Asylum, but persons having business to transact there, to pass and repass directly between the Station and the Asylum, which has been a very great accommodation.

In the article of Coals, your Committee have reason to believe that the Asylum will be well and cheaply supplied with that important article of consumption by the Railway Company ; some very excellent Silkstone Coals, suitable for burning in open fireplaces, having already been supplied at 18s. 1d. per Ton, and there can be, no doubt there will soon be, a reduction even in that price.

As the time approached for the completion of the Asylum, your Committee advertised for suitable persons to fill the various situations to be held by its superior Officers. They have had considerable difficulty in selecting from the very numerous and eligible Candidates who presented themselves, and after a most careful examination of the testimonials of each, and many minute enquiries, they proceeded to the election of those Officers in the months of July and August, notifying to the Candidates, that their salaries would not begin till they were called into residence in the Asylum, and that their services might not be required before the beginning of the year 1851, or even after that period.

On this understanding, your Committee proceeded to make the following appointments :—

RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICERS—DR. J. G. DAVEY, formerly one of the resident Medical Officers of the Hanwell Asylum; and DR. W. C. HOOD, at present the Superintendent of Fiddington House Lunatic Asylum, near Devizes.

STEWARD — MR. G. H. HENDERSON, formerly Assistant Steward at Parkhurst Prison.

MATRON—MRS. MARIA MERITON, late Matron of the House of Correction at Cold Bath Fields, and

CLERK—MR. A. M. JEAFFRESON, late a Clerk in a large mercantile establishment in the City.

CHAPLAIN—The REV. HENRY MURRAY, Curate of St. Luke, Chelsea.

An Act of Parliament for repealing the duties payable on bricks having been passed during the last year, your Committee have not failed to avail themselves of such provisions of that Act as were applicable to the County interests, and find they will be entitled to recover back from their contractor the sum of £470 in aid of the County Funds from that source.

Your Committee in their Report presented to the Court at the last January Quarter Session, stated that Mr. Myers was making bricks on the site of the Asylum to be used in the building, from which the Committee anticipated a considerable advantage would arise to the County. His work is now concluded, and your Committee find that thirteen millions of bricks of good quality have been made on the land, for which

they have received a royalty of 1s. per 1000, amounting in the whole to £650, while the ground from which the bricks were made, when it shall be levelled as the Contractor is bound to do, will be found to be improved both in appearance and in capability for cultivation : thus amply realizing the anticipations of your Committee in this respect.

The necessity of placing the building on the exact site it now occupies, in consequence of its extended frontage required to meet the difficulty of a two-storied building, as limited by the Commissioners in Lunacy, gave your Committee no little anxiety for some time, lest the appearance of the front elevation should not seem to realize the fact of the building standing upon a hill ; but now that the necessary excavations and removal of earth sanctioned by the Court are in course of execution, it is evident that no disappointment will be felt in this respect, though the anxiety of the Committee to reserve as much as possible for the labour of the patients after the Asylum is inhabited, will necessarily prevent the full effect of a proper laying out of the grounds from being felt for some years to come.

In taking leave of the arduous labours of the past year, your Committee cannot feel that they can be justly charged with a moment's forgetfulness of the best interests of the County. It is difficult to contemplate the gigantic requirements of such a building as the Colney Hatch Asylum without prudence and economy being alike startled at times, at the sums necessarily required to complete it ; but while these occasional feelings have served as a wholesome check upon the expenditure, they have not scared your Committee from fearlessly carrying out the great trust committed to their charge, and endeavouring to furnish a second Asylum

to the County of Middlesex for its Pauper Lunatics, which, while it shall combine all that the science and practical humanity of modern times can suggest, shall still be the offspring of wise and sound economy.

All which is submitted, &c.

BENJAMIN ROTCH,

Chairman.

Sessions House, 15th January, 1851.

ON THE PRECEDING REPORT

THE FOLLOWING

Resolution*Was adopted by the Court, on the 16th January, 1851.*

*Resolved—*1. “That the Report be received and printed, and circulated in the usual manner, and taken into consideration on the next County day.”

